

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 9 and 10 and amend claims 1, 4, 6, and 11 to read as follows:

b2  
1. (Amended) A loop-type voltage regulating device, particularly for regulating a voltage of an automotive electric system, including at least one thermal engine, a voltage regulator and an alternator operative to deliver a system-regulated voltage signal to and receive a regulation signal from the voltage regulator, comprising: a control unit connected between said thermal engine and said voltage regulator and adapted to receive a regulated voltage signal and at least one engine operation signal pertaining to one from among engine torque value, engine rpm, and engine temperature, and in response thereto to supply said voltage regulator with a signal corresponding to the engine operation for regulating the voltage delivered from the alternator.

b3  
4. (Amended) The voltage regulating device of Claim 3, wherein said control unit has at least a second terminal connected to said alternator to receive the system regulated voltage signal.

b4  
6. (Amended) The voltage regulating device of Claim 5, wherein the control unit is configured to:

process the incoming variables to generate information about the state of engine;  
and

supply, as a phase signal, an accurate assessment of the operational state of the engine.

b5  
11. (Amended) A method of loop regulating a voltage, in particular a voltage of an automotive electric system, comprising:

detecting variables related to the operation of a thermal engine by having a control unit connected to the engine, the variables comprising at least one from among engine torque, engine temperature, and engine rpm;